

Looking Back: Memories from the Past 40 Years



Michael S. Siegel Senior Rabbi The Norman Asher Rabbinic Chair msiegel@ansheemet.org

A Rally in Washington in 1987

"In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But in practice, there is."

— Benjamin Brewster

In my Rabbinate, I have learned that

these words are not just a quip, but something that one should take seriously. While in Rabbinical School, I remember debating with colleagues regarding the proper role of a rabbi. Some believed that the main focus should be on teaching and preaching. I included myself in the camp of those who thought that Rabbis had a responsibility to also lead change. In my first few years at Anshe Emet, I learned the power of practice over theory.

It was 1987, and Mikael Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union, was coming to America to meet with President Reagan. His country was in desperate straits, and President Gorbachev planned to ask his American counterpart to lift the economic sanctions that were crippling his country's economy. Because those sanctions were in place largely as a response to the Soviet Union's human rights abuses against Soviet Jews, a rally was planned by the leaders of the American Jewish community to protest any changes until the Russians "Let Our People Go"! A call went out to Rabbis encouraging them to

bring members of their congregations to Washington, and so I sent out a notice. To my delight, a number of people responded.

On a very cold Sunday in December, we landed in Washington. I will never forget the sight of 250,000 people standing together on the Mall in our nation's capital, chanting, and singing with the likes of Peter Paul and Mary. Hearing Natan Sharansky speak after being released from a Soviet Gulag after 9 years brought tears to my eyes. His words that day still ring in my ears: "The Soviets have to know," Sharansky told the crowd, "that no missiles and tanks, no camps and prisons, can extinguish the light of the candle of freedom." None of us had ever seen anything like it. There were Jews of every religious stripe, every organization, young and old, standing together as one people. It was a living embodiment of the words Kol Yisrael Arayvim Zeh La Zeh: All Israel is responsible for one another.

After the rally ended, we walked together to the bus taking us to the airport. The Jewish Federations around the country had done a miraculous job organizing the day. Looking into the

faces of members of the Anshe Emet community that day, it was clear that we had just witnessed an historic moment. None of us could have imagined, or would have believed, that the next day, President Reagan would tell Mikael Gorbachev: "Yesterday I had 250,000 people in my backyard saying, 'Let my people go.' Until you do what they want, nothing will happen." In the years following, the Soviet Union fell and millions of Jews were able to leave and create new lives in Israel, America, and around the world.

Years later, Yossi Klein Halevi, the Israeli journalist, author, and friend to this congregation, wrote regarding that rally: "The movement's success was based, in part, on its emphasis on klal Yisrael, working with the entirety of the Jewish people. It was the last great expression of the ideology of klal Yisrael, and that is its challenge to Jews today. Are we still capable of functioning as one people, on any issue?"

I do not have an answer to this question, but I do know that along with all of the responsibilities of congregational life, Rabbis need to continue to be on the

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A Message from Our Board President

Danielle Lazar President Anshe Emet Synagogue dlazar1971@gmail.com



front line of positive change. That day I learned the difference between theorizing about the call to justice in our tradition, and the power of putting those words into practice. Looking over the past 40 years, we have worked together to make Anshe Emet a place that works in every way to create positive change in our congregation, the larger Jewish community, and beyond: From our involvement in organizations like Mazon and Natal, to social justice efforts within our community like Na'aseh, Koleinu, Resettling Refugees in Chicago, or Ma'ot Hittin, our work reflects the power of practice over theory. What a privilege it has been to learn this age-old lesson again and again since that cold December day in 1987.



Maimonides said that "A person should

always [take care] not to cast his thoughts backwards [to the past], for his eyes are placed on his face and not his back"

Yet we all know that we cannot move forward if we don't understand where we have been and where we are going.

For 40 years, our Senior Rabbi, Michael Siegel, has created a critical balance between understanding the past and envisioning the future. He also is keenly aware that it is important to be responsive to where we are at the present. Rabbi Siegel has challenged the conventions of what it means to be a Conservative congregation by creating a tent of inclusion and diversity, both in practice and in thought. He has reached out locally, nationally, and internationally, to engage people in important conversations, always teaching by doing: how to listen, how to ask questions, how to show up, even when it is uncomfortable.

Perhaps most importantly, he has been there for each one of us through life's ups and downs. He is there for us during joyous events like marriages, b'nai mitzvah, and births, but also the difficult ones like illnesses and funerals. He is also there

for us during life's smaller moments, helping us live Jewishly on all the days in between these "big" milestones of life.

As host of the year-long celebration of Rabbi Siegel's 40th anniversary year at Anshe Emet, I am looking forward to the many opportunities we will have to celebrate Rabbi Siegel's legacy of leadership. I am especially excited about the programs that will allow us to come together as a community and show Rabbi Siegel our gratitude while learning with and from each other.

Please take a moment to peruse this newsletter and mark your calendars for one or more of the many programs designed to honor our Rabbi, including a special celebration on May 7, 2023!

While your calendar is open, don't forget to purchase tickets or a sponsorship to our 20th Annual Kaplan Concert. Cantor Brook is bringing extraordinary Grammyaward winning musical guests to our bimah to honor the legacy of Richard Tucker and it should not be missed!

With gratitude for your continued support of Anshe Emet.

Danielle Lagar

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Light & Latkes Chanukah Celebration!



Join us for this Community-Wide Event for All!

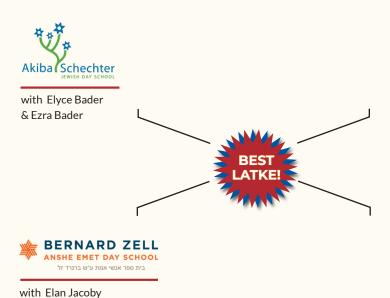
BATTLE

& Elad Turjeman



Sunday, December 18 · 11:30AM -1:30PM

Join the entire AES community as we celebrate Chanukah with a healthy competition featuring guest chefs representing local Jewish Day Schools, including:





Anshe Emet Religious School

with Brooke Herszage & Steve Schwartz-Fenwick



with Limor Gildenblatt & Tamar Cytryn

Members: \$15 · per Adult // \$5 · 5-18 Years // Free to Kids 4 and Under Non-Members: \$20 · per Adult // \$10 · 5-18 Years // Free to Kids 4 and Under

Register online at ansheemet.org/light-and-latkes

AES Upcoming Program Highlights



Radioactive: How Father Coughlin Brought anti-Semitism and Demagoguery to American Media With Andrew Lapin

Thursday, December 8 7PM

During the Great Depression, the most dangerous man in America was a "radio priest" from Detroit. Father Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest, broadcasting pioneer and celebrity, used his nationwide radio sermons to promote fascism and antisemitic conspiracy theories in the run-up to WWII. He became America's first mass-media demagogue, cultivating a loyal following of violent Nazi gangs, and created a new method for spreading hate to the masses... that continues to be emulated today. With journalist and host of the podcast, Radioactive, Andrew Lapin.



A Conversation with Joshua Malina: How to Make it in Hollywood and Remain a Mensch

Holocaust Cinema Complete with Author and Educator Rich Brownstein

Thursday, January 12 7PM

Presented by The Sarah Danielle Goldberg Memorial Cultural Arts Fund

Joshua Malina is an American film and stage actor known for playing Will Bailey on the NBC drama, The West Wing, Jeremy Goodwin on Sports Night, US Attorney General David Rosen on Scandal, and Caltech President Siebert on The Big Bang Theory. He currently is the co-host of the podcast, Chutzpod!, along with Rabbi Shira Stutman, that engages with current events and ancient texts, all through a Jewish lens.

This event is via Zoom.

This program is underwritten by Judy and Bill Goldberg in honor of Rabbi Michael Siegel's 40th Anniversary at Anshe Emet Synagogue.

Sunday, January 22 10AM

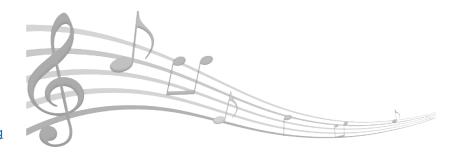
Rich Brownstein will lecture about the history of Holocaust films, how to analyze the genre, and his recommendations of the best, and worst, Holocaust films ever made. After a career in Hollywood, Rich Brownstein has become a leading international expert about the history and use of Holocaust films. Since 2014, he has lectured for Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem, specializing in the use of Holocaust film history and pedagogy. He is the author of Holocaust Cinema Complete: A History and Analysis of 400 Films.

Register for these events and much more at ansheemet.org/events.

AES Music



Rachel Brook Senior Cantor The Arnold H. Kaplan, M.D. Cantorial Chair rbrook@ansheemet.org



In synagogue life, this time of year

is lovingly referred to as "after the holidays". Here at Anshe Emet, we are all still buzzing from the joy of coming together as a community for the HighHoly Days. At the same time, we are thrilled to turn our attention to the many wonderful programs, classes, and holidays still ahead. Our music team is excitedly preparing for our 20th Annual Dr. Arnold H. Kaplan Concert, Richard Tucker's Legacy: A Chicago Celebration on Sunday, December 11th at 4pm. Richard Tucker was one of the most celebrated popular operatic

tenors of the 20th Century as well as one of the cantorial greats of his time. Tucker's proud Jewish life and secular artistic impact continue to serve as an increasingly rarefied example of how broadreaching a life and legacy can be. Tucker's son, Barry Tucker (President of the Richard Tucker Foundation), Grammy-award winning opera megastars Angel Blue and Matthew Polenzani, Grammy-award winner Cantor Gideon Zelermyer, and nationally renowned opera expert and educator Roger Pines will ioin us at Anshe Emet as we celebrate

Tucker through his deep connection with the city of Chicago, where he was a beloved star of the Chicago Lyric Opera for 9 seasons, and frequent guest cantor in synagogues throughout the city.

We look forward to seeing you at this historic celebration, as well as at our weekly musical Kabbalat Shabbat services, every Friday at 6PM. Here's to a wonderful "after the holidays"!





AES Youth Choir Come one, come all, to the Anshe Emet Youth Choir!

If you love to sing, consider joining one of our Youth Choir ensembles. This coming year, Youth Choir has two branches: Kindergarten–2nd grade and 3rd-6th grade. K-2nd Choir will sing at Friday night services throughout the year, with rehearsal and dinner prior to the service. 3rd-6th grade Choir will rehearse on selected Sundays at 12:30PM, and will sing at services and other special synagogue events.

Contact Cantor Brook to join: rbrook@ansheemet.org.



Shireinu: **AES Adult Choir** Meets on Select Thursday's 7PM

Studies show that singing in groups can improve your mood!

Join Shireinu, our volunteer choir for adults of all ages. We sing for fun, and we would like to create a program to bring to local senior residential facilities. With your help, we can get there!

Contact Cantor Liz to join: eberke@ansheemet.org.

The 20th Annual Dr. Arnold H. Kaplan Concert

RICHARD TUCKER'S

A CHICAGO CELEBRATION

4PM · Sunday, December 11, 2022 · Anshe Emet Synagogue



Featuring World-Class Performers. Supporting the Families of Our Community.

SPONSORSHIPS

\$10,000+ • The Magic Flute 8 Tickets for Kaplan Concert; One Reserved Space in the AES Parking Lot; Top Acknowledgement as a Supporter of the Album: The Music of Anshe Emet; Inclusion in all Kaplan Marketing Materials

\$5,000 · La Traviata

6 Tickets for Kaplan Concert; One Reserved Space in the AES Parking Lot; Top Acknowledgement as a Supporter of the Album: The Music of Anshe Emet; Inclusion in all Kaplan Marketing Materials

\$3,600 · Turandot

4 Tickets for Kaplan Concert; One Reserved Space in the AES Parking Lot; Top Acknowledgement as a Supporter of the Album: The Music of Anshe Emet; Inclusion in all Kaplan Marketing Materials

\$1,800 • La Boheme

2 Tickets for Kaplan Concert; One Reserved Space in the AES Parking Lot; Inclusion in all Kaplan Marketing Materials

\$720 • Aida2 Tickets for Kaplan Concert; One Reserved space in the AES Parking Lot

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\$54 • Per Adult

\$18 • Per Attendee Under 25

Free babysitting for this event! Please register your kids with Hannah Jarvis at hjarvis@ansheemet.org

Kaplan Concert Co-Chairs Lindy Hirschsohn & Chris Coetzee Sharon & Scott Markman

FEATURING



CANTOR RACHEL BROOK

ANGEL BLUE



MATTHEW POLENZANI

CANTOR GIDEON ZELERMYER



SPECIAL GUESTS



BARRY TUCKER



ROGER PINES

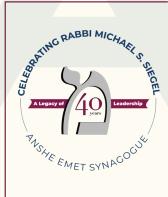


CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

Make your purchase online at: **ANSHEEMET.ORG/KAPLAN**

Rabbi Michael S. Siegel

Celebrating 40 Years of Leadership



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 7, 2023 • 4PM

Special Gala Honoring Rabbi Michael S. Siegel's 40 Years of Leadership at Anshe Emet Synagogue

Featuring special guests and musical tributes celebrating Rabbi Siegel's Legacy of Leadership.

40[™] Anniversary Forums

OCTOBER 5: A Conversation with Famed Watergate Journalist, Carl Bernstein & Rabbi Michael Siegel. Carl Bernstein's conversation with Rabbi Siegel has been underwritten by Kimberely and Arnie Rubin in honor of Rabbi Siegel's 40th Anniversary with Anshe Emet.

OCTOBER 9: The Dedication of the New Sukkah in honor of Michael Siegel, presented by the Men's Club of Anshe Emet.

NOVEMBER 9: In Commemoration of Kristallnacht, a discussion with Amy Spitalnick, Executive Director of Integrity First for America and Rabbi Michael Siegel.

Sponsored by the Men's Club.

JANUARY 12, **2023:** A Conversation with Joshua Malina: How to Make it in Hollywood and Remain a Mensch. Presented by the Sarah Danielle Goldberg Memorial Cultural Arts Fund and underwritten by Judy and Bill Goldberg.

FEBRUARY 2023: A Conversation with Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson.

Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson holds the Abner and Roslyn Goldstine Dean's Chair of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and is Vice President of American Jewish University.

APRIL 2023: A Conversation with Yossi Klein HaLevi and Rabbi Michael Siegel.

40th Anniversary Committee (in formation)

Dani Lazar, Chair Jessica Bearak Deborah Brown Chika Chandler Simon Fleischmann Scott Frazin Alan and Fran Mintz Ruth Rau Arnie Rubin Natalie Schneiderman Mimi Wallk

Honorary Committee

*Asterisk denotes Synagogue President during Rabbi Siegel's 40 years.





Mardi Caminer Director of Education. K-7th Grade mcaminer@ansheemet.org

5783 is off to a good start with our

youth! Some chai-lights include:

- Schmoozing with over 30 parents during the Donuts with the Director event on Sunday mornings
- Selling out for our November 6 Petting Zoo Event - more similar events to come soon!
- Building a fun Day Off Program for November 8 including batting cages & arcade games, clowning acts, making slime, a silent disco and more with over 30 students registered
- Watching our inclusion specialist support a student who needed a break from his/her classroom and seeing the student back in class a few minutes later sounding out Hebrew prayers with a friend
- · Reveling in the beauty of Todd Kessler, our music specialist, lead tefillah in a sanctuary of 1st and 2nd graders who were intensely following along in their siddurim and listening to parents exclaim that our youngest children are practicing the freeze dances that Todd showed them at religious school at home

to a song parody about Jonah and the whale as they practice their Textploration project

One additional moment I would like to share with all of you occurred a few weeks ago. A few classes were gathered in the sukkah as our shinshinim, teachers, and Rabbi D'ror led stations for each child to shake the lulav and etrog. A first grader watched for a few minutes and declined to have a turn when offered. Within a few moments. a friend whispered some words of encouragement and the girl who just wanted to sit before walked up to her teacher for a turn. The teacher had her repeat the bracha (blessing) a few words at a time and guided her to shake the Iulav and etrog. As the girl walked back to her seat, she beamed with pride.

Looking forward to many more moments of meaning in the religious school and with our youth in 5783.

Mardi Camines

• Listening to 4th graders rock out

SAVETHE DATE **ANNUAL** SISTERHOOD SHABBAT Saturday, March 4, 2023

Deborah Gubin and Marcie Marcovitz, the Co-Presidents of the AES Sisterhood are excited about Sisterhood's upcoming programs:

- Sisterhood continues to work with AES to continue the **High School Grad Connection**. The program sends boxes twice a year to children/young adults of AES members between the ages of 18-22 with fun and meaningful reminders of their Jewish Heritage.
- Sisterhood Book Group is alive and well. We meet three times in the fall and three times in the spring with a professional facilitator. Please contact Judy Metzger at hgmetl@aol.com.

AES Sisterhood is an affiliate of Women's League. All of our members have access of all of Women's League programs and courses.

Photos from the Sisterhood trip to the Koval Distillery.





Rock of Ages Chanukah **Bouldering Event!**

Saturday, December 17 6:30PM - 8PM

Join us at Movement Chicago (Wrigleyville 1115 W Addison Street Chicago IL 60613) for our Rock of Ages Chanukah Bouldering Event!

Member Price: \$25 per climber and guests free! Non-Member Price: \$30 per climber and guests free! Rock Climbing appropriate for children 5 and older.

Teen Life at Anshe Emet



Making Sufganiot with Local Chef. Sam Zeitlin

Tuesday, December 13 7PM

Our Anshe Emet Middle and High School students will learn how to make their own delicious sufganiot with Chicago's own, Chef Sam Zeitlin of Zeitlin's Delicatessen



Programs Open to all 9th - 12th Graders

Thursday, December 1 Outing to Gallagher Way

Friday, December 9 -Sunday, December 11

CHUSYfest



Dear Evan Hansen Sunday, December 11

Calling all Anshe Emet 9th-12th

Graders! Join us on December 11th starting at 5PM for pizza and a guest speaker from No Shame On U, followed by a trip to Broadway in Chicago to see Dear Evan Hansen! Pickup will be around 10:30PM.

Register online at: ansheemet.org/evan-hansen

Gesher Open to 6th - 8th Graders

Thursday, December 1 Outing to Gallagher Way

Friday, December 9 -Sunday, December 11 Gesherfest



Returning this Fall!

High school juniors and seniors and their grown-ups are invited to think about and explore life after high school. Each session focuses on a different topic that teens will encounter after leaving home, including:

- Exploring identity
- · Hearing from current college students and university professionals.
- Learn more about resources for promoting a healthy mind and body away from home.
- · Lastly, encountering anti-Semitism, and anti-Zionism on campus.

Program concludes with a Shabbat dinner at AES. Thursday evenings at 7:30PM, December 1st, 8th, & 15th, Shabbat Dinner on January 12th.

Register online at: ansheemet.org/j2m-2



Contact Samantha Isenstein to learn more: sisenstein@ansheemet.org.

AES Community Announcements

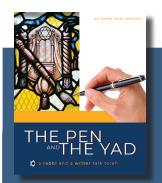


ANSHE EMET VOLUNTEER CORPS:

We are looking for members who are passionate about volunteerism and Tikkun Olam to join Anshe Emet's Volunteer Corps.

Throughout the year, there are several opportunities for our congregants to lend a helping hand within our community.

If you are interested in being on the contact list, please contact Hannah Jarvis: at hjarvis@ansheemet.org or 773.868.5143.



THE PEN & THE YAD PODCAST

New Episodes Every Week!

Rabbi Michael S. Siegel is joined by Anshe Emet member and acclaimed author, Jonathan Eig, for this weekly podcast. Listen and learn as they discuss the deeper meanings and religious significance of each week's parsha.

> ansheemet.org/ <u>thepenandtheyad</u>

HaZaK FOR Seniors

Mondays at 1PM

HaZaK is an Anshe Emet daytime program for mature adults with active minds. Co-taught by our clergy, and other community educators.

Join us in person or via Zoom at ansheemet.org/livestream

Meeting ID: 663 098 957 Password: Hazakclass

11/7 - Elie Berkman

11/14 - Rabbi Michael Siegel

11/21 - Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould

11/28 - Cantor Liz Berke

12/5 - Cantor Rachel Brook

12/12 - Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould

12/19 - Rabbi Michael Siegel

12/26 - No Hazak (Winter Break)

Sincerest Condolences

Anshe Emet expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Revelle G. Peritz Carlos G. Rizowy Michael Cohen Sarah Danzinger Manuel Zymelman **Hannah Ray Weiss Charlotte Newberger**

Sponsorship Opportunities

Anshe Emet is blessed to celebrate many special occasions, s'machot, in our community. Anshe Emet is now offering several sponsorship opportunities for you to consider in memory or honor of someone vou love or in celebration of a simcha. Please fill out our form (the link is listed below) or visit our website to make arrangements. For any questions, please contact Mimi Weisberg at mweisberg@ ansheemet.org or 773.868.5123.

Fill out our form at: ansheemet.org/sponsorships

Monthly Online Bereavement Group

November 28 7:30PM via Zoom

Please join us online for our monthly support group for adults who have experienced the death of a loved on within the past two years. Learn more and join us at: ansheemet.org/bereavementgroup

Misheberach List

If you would like to have a name placed on the misheberach (prayer for healing) list, contact Antoinette Nunez. at **773.868.5120**

anunez@ansheemet.org

Names will be kept on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students!

NOVEMBER 2022



Liv Herszage Daughter of Brooke & Bruno Herszage November 5, 2022



Sadie Rau Daughter of Ruth & Leonard Rau November 12, 2022



Ori Shear Son of Judith & John Shear November 5, 2022



Jessup Derechin Son of Karen Seder & Dan Derechin November 19, 2022

DECEMBER 2022



Elon Gabriel Rosenblum Son of Michele & Jason Rosenblum December 3, 2022



Lilah Small Daughter of Alexandra & Ben Small December 10, 2022



Frankie Raisher Son of **Emily** & James Raisher December 3, 2022

SUSTAINING FUND TREE OF LIFE

SHOMRIM

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Joan & Linda Friedman Robert & Carlen Katz Gregg Silver & Joanne Moffic-Silver

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Jay Lewkowitz Mark & Giselle Ratain

OTIOT

Rosanne Diamond Biff Ruttenberg & Gwen Callans Morgan Sage Sam & Susan Tenenbaum

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Karen Weiss

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Matthew & Jennifer Seidner Raisa Shtofer Moisey & Sofya Shulman Cheryl Siegelman

Ricca Slone Elesheva Soloff

Neil Stern

Abraham Trieger & Cheryl Klehr

Mark Vizza Gai & Melissa Walny Mark Wolff Arie & Marsha Yelen

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SAMUEL LEVY: Steve & Alice Ginsburgh ISADORE MEDNICK: Les & Nancy Lipschutz

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JOSEPH G. PAVIAN: Lynne Sobel NATHAN N. PERLSTEIN: Michael & Paula Perlstein

MARCIA RUSH: Marilynn Preston ELAINE SCHWARTZ: Thomas & Linda White

GORDON SHAW, SADIE STIGLITZ, MURRAY GORDON: Laurie Gordon GRETEL SIMON: Evelyn & Steve Vogel ARNOLD ALLEN STERN: Gregory & Cheron Stern

FLORA SOBEL: Michael & Susan Weininger MARK ZUCKER: Stuart & Diane Grauer

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RABBI MICHAEL S. SIEGEL

Svetlana Cohen In honor of:

JACKSON'S BAR MITZVAH: Susanne Furmanek-Steiner RABBI SIEGEL: Barbara Miller RABBI MICHAEL SIEGEL: Michael & Paula Perlstein

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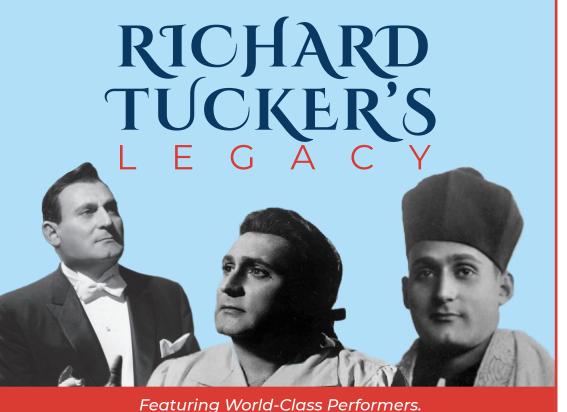
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